

Executive Summary

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

The staff recommends that the council approve the allocation of the 2002-04 agency bond pools to be used in part to complete fire safety projects in student housing, life safety, infrastructure, renovation, and new construction. (For details, see page 87.)

The 2002-04 Appropriations Bill (House Bill 269) enacted by the 2003 General Assembly authorized \$155 million of bond pool authority for postsecondary education institutions. The institutions, not the state, pay the debt service on agency bonds issued by institutions. The council staff and institutions jointly developed the guidelines to allocate the bond authority. This action will allow institutions to begin implementation of badly needed projects on their campuses.

The staff recommends that the council approve the 2004-2010 Six-Year Capital Plan, which outlines the capital priorities for the agency over the next six years. (For details, see page 93.)

State law requires each agency, including the council and the public universities and colleges, to submit a six-year capital plan to the Capital

Planning Advisory Board by April 15 in each odd-numbered year. The plans are to include all capital projects that may be completed during the next three biennia. The plan can be revised until October 2003.

At the July 2002 meeting the council members received the results of the 2002 Academic Program Productivity Review and accepted the staff recommendation to place a limited set of low productivity programs on continued review. The staff continued to work with the institutions, and the institutions provided additional information on those programs in December 2002. As a result of the continued review, additional changes were made in the majority of these programs that promise to increase productivity. The programs will be reviewed again in 2006 to determine if the changes worked. Eighteen of the programs still, in the view of the council staff, have not adequately addressed their productivity problems. They will be highlighted in the regular 2004 productivity review. In the interim, the council staff will aggressively work with the institutions to address productivity concerns. Some of these programs are in areas of great state need and every attempt should be made to increase their success. More information begins on page 97.

The council reviewed activities funded by the Research Challenge Trust Fund and the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund at its February 3, 2003, meeting. At that time, council members requested additional information

indicating the programs' progress toward national prominence. The agenda item beginning on page 101 summarizes the institutional responses.